

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a clutch device for an automatic transmission as defined by the limitations of claim 1; including particular arrangement of a clutch drum, a clutch piston and a rotary speed sensor, wherein the clutch piston has a plurality of recesses and oil holes being equally spaced apart from each other in a circumferential direction of the clutch piston.

The copending Application serial No. 11/481,831 discloses a friction apply device of a vehicular automatic transmission. However, that does not show particular arrangement of a clutch drum, a clutch piston, and a rotary speed sensor, including the clutch piston having a plurality of recesses and oil holes being equally spaced apart from each other in a circumferential direction of the clutch piston, and including the speed sensor disposed radially outwardly of the clutch piston as required by claim 1 of the instant application. There is no motivation and/or suggestion to make combination that shows all the recited features.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HA D. HO whose telephone number is 571-272-7091. If

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attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/HDH/
(571) 272-7091
May 1, 2009

/Ha D. Ho/
Primary Examiner, A.U. 3655